AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for dispensing and distributing food for aquatic fauna, which can be fitted in aquariums or containers for holding live fish, as well as in tanks for turtles and terrariums in general or similar, said ~~this~~ device comprising:

a tank for containing ~~and means for pushing~~ the food ~~towards a dispensing outlet~~, ~~wherein~~ the tank being ~~is~~ positioned in a substantially horizontal direction; and

~~and houses~~ a pusher-mixer for pushing the food towards a dispensing outlet, the pusher-mixer occupying ~~which occupies~~ the internal space of the tank and comprising ~~consists of~~ a shaft equipped with a plurality of sloping blades all facing in the same direction as the direction in which the food is pushed towards, the shaft further including a closing plate at an end of the shaft closer to the dispensing outlet, the closing plate positioned at right angles to the shaft and occupying one of two half-sections defined by a center line of the shaft, wherein the closing plate faces downwards with respect to the center line of the shaft when the pusher-mixer is in a stationary or idle position;

wherein the dispensing outlet ~~whereby said dispensing outlet~~ has a substantially vertical opening for the discharge of the food in a horizontal direction.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the plate of the shaft is functionally connected with the opening of the outlet and[[,]] wherein rotation of the shaft determines the ~~depending on its~~ position of the plate to ~~, determined by the rotation of the shaft~~ allow ~~allows~~ or prevent ~~prevents~~ food dispensing and minimize ~~prevents~~ the entry of humidity ~~rising from below~~.

Claim 4 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the outlet is equipped with a reversible perforated dispenser which has two sections with different sized holes.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The device of claim 4, wherein said perforated dispenser, according to the grain size of the food product to be dispensed, ~~which is used for dispensing~~

~~granular products, can be~~ ~~inserted~~ is positioned in one of two vertical positions where one of the two sections occupies the dispensing outlet ~~one way up or the other according to the grain size of the food product to be dispensed~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The device of claim 4, wherein the perforated dispenser is inserted in one of two vertical positions ~~one way up or the other~~ between two guides ~~positioned at the sides of the outlet thus occupying~~ to occupy the dispensing outlet ~~space~~ and allow ~~allowing~~ controlled discharge of the food, said two guides are each positioned at a side of the dispensing outlet.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 1, further comprising a sliding cover for dosing flake type products.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 7, wherein said sliding cover which slides between a pair of guides, can be moved to regulate the opening of the outlet according to the amount of product to be dispensed into the aquarium.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The device of claim 1 wherein the shaft is driven by an electric motor housed in a ~~the~~ casing, said motor rotating a kinematic drive unit which drives a power take-off engaged on an ~~the~~ end of the shaft opposite the end fitted with the plate.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The device of claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the power take-off is shaped so as to maintain a direct grip with the shaft allowing control of the position of the mixer-dispenser, and thus of the plate according to the revolutions of the shaft determined by the drive unit.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the tank is fixed and shaped so as to be held, together with ~~the~~ motor parts for driving the pusher-mixer ~~parts,~~ between two casings opposite to each other and having substantially similar exterior dimensions ~~specular with respect to the cylinder coupling area~~.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11, wherein one of said casings is designed to contain the parts driving the pusher-mixer while the other casing houses the tank and the pusher-mixer and terminates, at its front end, with an outlet equipped with closing means.

Claim 13 (new): A device for dispensing and distributing food for aquatic fauna, which can be fitted in aquariums or containers for holding live fish, as well as in tanks for turtles and terrariums in general or similar, said device comprising:

a tank for containing the food, the tank being positioned in a substantially horizontal direction;

a pusher-mixer for pushing the food towards a dispensing outlet, the pusher-mixer occupying the internal space of the tank and comprising a shaft equipped with a plurality of sloping blades all facing in the same direction as the direction in which the food is pushed towards;

motor parts for driving the pusher-mixing; and

two casings housing the tank and the motors parts between the two casings, the two casings opposite each other and having substantially similar exterior dimensions;

wherein the dispensing outlet has a substantially vertical opening for the discharge of the food in a horizontal direction.

Claim 14 (new): The device of claim 13, wherein one of said casings is designed to contain the parts driving the pusher-mixer while the other casing houses the tank and the pusher-mixer and terminates, at its front end, with an outlet equipped with closing means.